

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 122868
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122868

EXDIS CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRIME MINISTER
VORSTER

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT
CARTER TO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AT EARLIEST POSSI-
BLE OPPORTUNITY:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE
HAS GIVEN ME A FULL REPORT OF HIS TALKS WITH YOU AT
VIENNA. I BELIEVE THE TALKS WERE USEFUL IN CLARIFYING
THE ISSUES AND INSURING THAT WE EACH CLEARLY UNDER-
STAND THE POSITION OF THE OTHER. I WELCOME YOUR
SUPPORT FOR THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN EFFORTS TO
PURSUE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. A
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NEGOTIATED SOLUTION REMAINS THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE
A DE-ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE.

QUOTE ON NAMIBIA, I THINK A PROCESS HAS BEGUN WHICH
CAN LEAD TO AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION.
I WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR NEXT MEETING IN

CAPE TOWN WITH THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. I WOULD HOPE WE WILL RECEIVE FROM YOU AT THAT TIME YOUR DETAILED VIEWS ON AN INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY, THE RELEASE OF NAMIBIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND PLANS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICA. I WILL BE FOLLOWING THESE IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS CLOSELY.

QUOTE NAMIBIA IS ONE OF THE MOST URGENT ISSUES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. I WELCOME THE POSITIVE STEPS TAKEN BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WHICH INVOLVE AGREEMENT TO HOLD NATIONWIDE ELECTIONS, IN WHICH ALL CAN PARTICIPATE, INCLUDING SWAPO, FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO DEVISE A PERMANENT CONSTITUTION FOR NAMIBIA. YOUR WILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO UN PARTICIPATION IS ALSO WELCOME FOR THIS IS ESSENTIAL TO INSURE INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.

QUOTE THE CRITICAL POINT IS THE NATURE OF THE INTERIM CIVIL AUTHORITY. I NOTE YOUR COMMITMENT TO AN INTERIM AUTHORITY THAT DRAWS UPON THE WORK OF THE TURNHALLE CONFERENCE. I WOULD HOPE THAT AS YOU DEVELOP YOUR DETAILED THINKING ON THE NATURE OF AN INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY, YOU WOULD DO SO WITH A VIEW TO MAKING IT REPRESENTATIVE OF NAMIBIAN POLITICAL FORCES AND IMPARTIAL AS TO THE ELECTION AND THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND THE ULTIMATE PERMANENT GOVERNMENT TO EMERGE IN NAMIBIA.
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QUOTE I SEE NO REASON WHY YOUR COMMITMENTS AND THOSE OBJECTIVES CANNOT BE RECONCILED. IF THIS CAN BE DONE, THE STAGE WILL BE SET FOR A PROMPT, ORDERLY TRANSITION IN NAMIBIA THAT WILL BE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE AND THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

QUOTE PROGRESS ON NAMIBIA WILL ALSO PROVIDE A POSITIVE FRAMEWORK FOR DEALING WITH OTHER ISSUES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA IN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND COOPERATIVE MANNER. AS VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TOLD YOU, MY GOVERNMENT HAS AN ENDURING COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS INSURING HUMAN DIGNITY FOR ALL AND FULL POLITICAL

PARTICIPATION IN ALL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. TO BE PEACEFUL, CHANGE MUST COME PROMPTLY. THE UNITED STATES IS DETERMINED TO WORK TOGETHER WITH OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES AND WITH THE CONCERNED AFRICAN

STATES TO SHAPE A CONGENIAL INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK
FOR THE RAPID AND PROGRESSIVE TRANSFORMATION OF
SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY AND TO HELP PROTECT IT
FROM UNWARRANTED OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. AS THE
VICE PRESIDENT ALSO INDICATED, POSITIVE ACTION ON
YOUR PART WILL BE OPENLY WELCOMED BY THE UNITED
STATES. I HOPE THAT YOUR UPCOMING MEETINGS WITH THE
FIVE-NATION CONTACT GROUP WILL MAKE SIGNIFICANT
PROGRESS AND OPEN THE DOOR TO A HOPEFUL FUTURE.
SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END QUOTE.

2. SIGNED ORIGINAL OF LETTER WILL FOLLOW.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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